

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IOE-00 AF-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 DHA-02 /082 W

-----241914Z 026036 /43

O R 241831Z MAY 77

FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

TO AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 3725

UNCLAS USUN 1629

PASS: AMBASSADOR YOUNG, TOM OFFENBURGER

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, OVIP (YOUNG, ANDREW)

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION TO AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S TRIP

1. SUMMARY: FOLLOWING IS MAY 24, AND LAST, MEDIA REACTION REPORT ON AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S AFRICAN TRIP. END SUMMARY.

2. WPOST REPORTS UNDER HEAD "CARTER SEES YOUNG AS 3RD WORLD HERO," THAT PRESIDENT IN MONDAY CABINET MEETING "WENT OUT OF HIS WAY" TO PRAISE AMBASSADOR YOUNG, PREDICTING THAT YOUNG 'WILL BECOME A HERO TO THE THIRD WORLD.' 'THERE IS NO DOUBT IN MY MIND THAT OVER A PERIOD OF TIME ANDY YOUNG WILL BECOMDE A HERO TO THE THIRD WORLD,' SAID CARTER. THE PRESIDENT ADDED THAT YOUNG: 'SPEAKS COURAGEOUSLY AND CONVINCINGLY ABOUT THE PROBLEMS OF ALL PEOPLE' AND IS 'ESTABLISHING THE PROPER RELATIONSHIP WITH DEVELOPING COUNTRUES ON THE ISSUES OF RACE AND HUMAN RIGHTS.' CARTER'S REMARKS, RELAYED TO REPORTERS BY REX GRANUM, WERE, ACCORDING TO WPOST, "CLEARLY DESIGNED TO REITERATE THE PRESIDENT'S PERSONAL SUPPORT OF THE SOMETIMES CONTROVERSIAL U.N. AMBASSADOR." THE PRESIDENT TOLD THAT CABINET THAT HE HAS 'COMPLETE FAITH' IN YOUNG AND THAT YOUNG HAS ALSO DEVELOPED 'A

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GOOD WORKING RELATIONSHIP' WITH VANCE AND OTHER FOREIGN POLICY ADVISERS.

2. SEVERAL PAPERS CARRIED WIRE REPORTS THAT INTERIOR MINISTER MULDER SAID MONDAY THAT YOUNG BROKE THE TERMS OF THE AGREEMENT UNDER WHICH HE WAS ALLOWED TO VISIT SOUTH AFRICA AND THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS TAKING THE MATTER

'IN A SERIOUS LIGHT.'

3. JUNE GOODWIN'S (CSMONITOR) JOHANNESBURG STORY MAKES POINT THAT SOUTH AFRICAN BLACKS, THUS FAR, HAVE BEEN DIVIDED ON STRATEGY BUT "ARE MOVING TO WORK TOGETHER" BECAUSE THEY KNOW THEY MUST OVERCOME "THE WHITE GOVERNMENT'S DIVIDE-AND-CONTROL POLICY." IMPLIED BUT NOT STATED IN THE STORY IS THAT YOUNG'S SOUTH AFRICAN VISIT -- ALTHOUGH HE WAS ABLE TO SPEAK VIRTUALLY ONLY TO MODERATE BLAKS -- WILL HAVE AN IMPACT ON THE MOVEMENT TOWARD UNITY AMONG SOUTH AFRICA BLACKS.

4. BENJAMIM POGRUND IN BGLOBE REPORTS FROM THE JOHANNESBURG THAT YOUNG'S HECTIC WEEKEND VISIT LEFT "SOUTH AFRICANS PERPLEXED ABOUT HIM AND DIVIDED IN THEIR VIEWS ABOUT HIS DRIVE TO END APARTHEID." YOUNG'S "QUIET, COOL APPROACH," DURING HIS DINNER SPEECH TO SOUTH AFRICAN BUSINESSMEN, SUCCEEDED "IN DISPELLING THE IMAGE MANY WHITES HAVE OF HIM AS A 'WILD MAN' AND A 'BIG MOUTH.' BUT OTHER AT THE MEETING THOUGHT HE WAS 'UNREALISTIC' IN HIS APPROACH TO SOUTH AFRICA'S RACIAL PROBLEMS AND 'NAIVE' IN BELIEVING THAT ECONOMIC POWER FOR BLACKS WOULD LEAD T RACIAL PEACE WITH WHITES."

5. LONDON TIMES EDITORIAL SAYS THE "ONUS" IS ON THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT AND IF THEY GIVE NO "CONCESSIONS TO DEMANDS" OF THE U.S., THE U.S. "MAY HAVE TO GO MUCH FARTHER THAN THEY PRIVATELY DESIRE IN SIDING WITH REVOLUTIONARY AFRICAN NATIONALISM."

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6. NICHOLAS ASHFORD WRITES IN LONDON TIMES THAT "AS A TOUR DE FORCE" THE BRIEF VISIT OF YOUNG TO SOUTH AFRICA

"WAS HARD TO FAULT. HE WAS WITTY, WARM-HEARTED, STYLISH, THE VOICE OF REASONABLENESS, AT TIMES PROVOCATIVE BUT NEVER INSULTING." THE VISIT, ASHFORD CONTINUES, DISPELLED FEARS OF AN "OGRE" AND NOT "EVEN THE MOST CYNICAL OF THE SOUTH AFRICANS...SEEMED TO DOUBT" YOUNG'S SINCERITY, ALTHOUGH SOME FELT HE WAS "DANGEROUSLY NAIVE." WHETHER THE YOUNG VISIT "ACHIEVED ANYTHING TO PROMOTE CHANGE" IN SOUTH AFRICA "IS ANOTHER MATTER." THE PEOPLE "WHO REALLY MATTER IN SOUTH AFRICA - THE AFRIKANER NATIONALISTS AND THE BLACK NATIONALIST - WERE NOT HTERE TO HEAR HIM"

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, MINISTERIAL VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 24-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770185-0277
Format: TEL
From: USUN NEW YORK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770522/aaaaassl.tel
Line Count: 114
Litigation Code IDs:
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Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 0340d18a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
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Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2384713
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MEDIA REACTION TO AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S TRIP
TAGS: PFOR, OVIP, SOPN, US, (YOUNG, ANDREW J)
To: KHARTOUM LONDON
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/0340d18a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009